

10/517573

DT05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 DEC 2004

S/N Unknown

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BOGAERTS et al. Filed: concurrent herewith
Serial No.: Unknown Docket No.: 09997.0112USWO
Title: GUIDING MEMBER FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, SURGICAL
INSTRUMENTS, COUPLING AND USES THEREOF

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 407258237 US
Date of Deposit: December 9, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop PCT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: 

Name: David Ortiz

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop PCT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

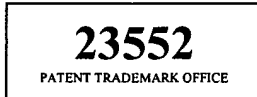
A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

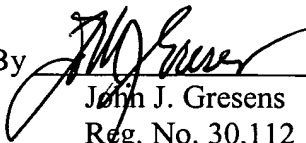
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
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Dated: December 9, 2004

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 30,112

JJG/acp

Date Mailed: Decemebr 9, 2004

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FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 09997.0112USWO	Application Number: Unknown
	Applicant: BOGAERTS et al.	
	Filing Date: concurrent herewith	Group Art Unit:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,174,307 B1	01/2001	Daniel et al.			
	5,823,956	10/1998	Roth et al.			
	5,882,331	03/1999	Sasaki			
	5,154,182	10/1992	Moaddeb			
	6,244,809 B1	06/2001	Wang et al.			
	5,395,349	03/1995	Quiachon et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	99/04710	02/1999	WIPO				
	95/01757	01/1995	WIPO				
	43 10 842 A1	10/1994	DE			Abstract	
	2 711 504	05/1995	FR				
	1034746	08/1983	SU				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	